

Serial No. 10/801,661

Attorney Docket No. 26B-027

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 5-7 are pending. Claims 3, 4 and 8-10 have been canceled. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 4 was objected to as depending on a rejected base claim but was said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In the last amendment, claim 4 incorrectly depended on canceled claim 3. The applicants intended that claim 3 depend on claim 1. The examiner apparently understood that claim 3 should depend on claim 1 in stating that claim 4 would be allowable if written in independent form.

The subject matter of claim 4 has been added to claim 1 in this amendment. Therefore, claim 1 should be in condition for allowance. This amendment is not believed to raise any new issue, since the error in the dependency of claim 4 was an obvious mistake, and the examiner seems to have understood the correct dependency.

Claims 1, 2, and 5-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Gehring *et al.* Claims 1, 2, and 5-10 were also rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gehring *et al.* in view of Official Notice. Claims 8-10 have been canceled and thus will not be discussed. As for claims 1, 2, and 5-7, the applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 4 was said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. With the understanding that claim 4 should have depended on claim 1 in the last amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 4. Therefore, claim 1 is considered to be in

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condition for allowance. Claims 2 and 5-7 depend on claim 1, directly or indirectly. Therefore, claims 2 and 5-7 are also considered to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Please charge any unforeseen fees that may be due to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,


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